

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the subject application, and claims 1, 3, 5, 8, and 11 have been amended herein. Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiner Faulk for indicating allowance of claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12-24. Applicants' representative would also like to thank Examiner Faulk for the courtesies extended during a telephone conference on August 18, 2004 in which Examiner Faulk stated that claims 1, 3, 5, 8, and 11 would be in condition for allowance if amended to recite receipt and utilization of a front left channel signal, a front center channel signal and a front right channel signal, in addition to surround channel signals. Accordingly, the subject claims have been amended herein to incorporate such limitations, and it is believed that the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration in light of the following remarks and the amendment is respectfully requested.

First Obviousness Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sibbald (U.S. 6,498,857) and further in view of Bauck (Generalized Transaural Stereo and Applications) in further view of Hayakawa (JP 6165298). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons. As indicated *supra*, independent claim 1 has been amended as suggested by Examiner Faulk to include a front left channel signal, a front center channel signal and a front right channel signal. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and, thus, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Second Obviousness Rejection


Claims 3, 5, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sibbald (U.S. 6,498,857) in view of Scofield, et al. (U.S. 6,144,747) in further view of Hayakawa (JP 6165298). This rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons. The subject claims have been amended herein to recite a front left channel signal, a front center

6165298). This rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons. The subject claims have been amended herein to recite a front left channel signal, a front center channel signal and a front right channel signal, as suggested by Examiner Faulk, and it is believed the subject claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 3, 5, 8, and 11 be withdrawn.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,
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